Dredging operation by foreign dredgers

737. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether dredgers with foreign flags are allowed to dredge in the Indian ports;

(b) if so, whether any application for permission for dredging by the dredger with foreign flag is rejected by the DG, Shipping in 1997, 1998 and 1999, and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) An application made by MS Crown Maritime Ltd., Mumbai for charter permission for dredger 'Pioneer C-10' in the month of August, 1999 was rejected by DG (Shipping). The matter is under investigation.

Lack of proper security arrangements at Ports

738. SHRI SATISHCHANDRA SITARAM PRADHAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no proper security provision at all the ports;

(b) whether it is a fact that due to security reasons series of murders happened in JNPT Mumbai including that of a women; and

(c) if so, the details of the action taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) A man was murdered on 31.12.1994 and in a double murder incident, two women were killed on 14.6.1998 in Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust township,

(c) In the murder which took place on 31.12.1994, the culprits were apprehended and charge-sheeted by the police. In the case of double murder, the investigations are pending with Crime Branch, Navi Mumbai and the culprits ere yet to be arrested. The law and